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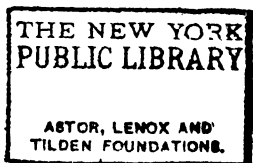


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★ Miss C. M. Hardie

Belle Hardie.

Convent of the Visitation  
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DEMOSTHENES



CICERO



HOMER



CÆSAR



SOCRATES



CATO

IRVING'S  
CATECHISM  
OF  
Classical Biography:  
CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF  
THE LIVES  
OF THE  
MOST CELEBRATED CHARACTERS  
AMONG THE

Ancient Greeks and Romans.

WITH ENGRAVED ILLUSTRATIONS.

FOURTH AMERICAN EDITION, REVISED AND IMPROVED.

By M. J. KERNEY, A.M.

*Author of Compendium of Ancient and Modern History, First Class  
Book of History, Catechism of the History of the United  
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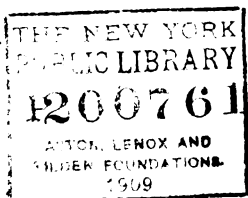
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## PREFACE.

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THE long established reputation of IRVING'S CATECHISMS precludes the necessity of adding any comments on their merits. The very extensive circulation which they have had, not only in England, but also in this country, is the best proof of their utility. The plan of his works is the very best that could be adopted. The catechetical form of instruction is now admitted, by the most experienced teachers, to be the best adapted to the nature and capacity of youth;—a system by which children will acquire a knowledge of a science, in less time than by any other.

The perusal of history is at all times interesting. But to turn our minds back along the path of time, to call forth from their silent graves the heroes of the past and to hold communion with the great and the good of former ages, is a pleasing and instructive task. To the classical student, in particular, the present number will be found to possess peculiar attractions. It presents in a few words, the most, interesting events in the lives of those whose names have cast a lustre over the historic page of Greece and Rome.

The edition of the Classical Biography which is now presented to the public, has been carefully revised and corrected; and no pains have been spared on the part of the Publishers to render it still more worthy of that liberal patronage which has been extended in general, to Dr. Irving's series of Catechisms.

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A CATECHISM  
OF  
Classical Biography.

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CHAPTER I.

*Homer.*

*Q.* Who was Homer?

*A.* Homer was a celebrated Greek poet, who flourished about 900 years before Christ.

*Q.* Where was he born?

*A.* The place of his birth is uncertain; but by some writers he is said to have been born at Smyrna. Little is known of his parentage, or the circumstances of his life: it is generally agreed that he was a wandering poet, and is said to have been blind in his old age.

*Q.* What are his works?

*A.* The poems of Homer are the Iliad and the Odyssey, each in twenty-four books: the former describes the wrath of Achilles, and the many calamities that followed from it; the subject of

the latter is the return of Ulysses to his native country.

Q. What have you to observe of his writings?

A. The writings of Homer are the most ancient that have been transmitted to us, except the Holy Scriptures, and some Indian compositions; they have rendered him immortal, by their sublimity, animation, and elegance, which have scarcely been equalled by any succeeding poet.

Q. Was Homer much venerated by the ancients?

A. The ancients had such veneration for Homer, that they not only raised temples and statues to his honor, but offered sacrifices, and worshipped him as a god: his poems were so universally admired, that every man of learning could repeat with facility any passage from either.

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## CHAPTER II.

### *Hesiod*

Q. Who was Hesiod?

A. Hesiod was also a Greek poet, who is supposed to have flourished about the time of Homer, or some years later.

Q. What did Hesiod write?

A. The principal work of Hesiod is on agriculture, and is termed the *Works and Days*.

Q. What is the merit of this work?

**A.** In addition to botanical knowledge it abounds with valuable moral reflections.

**Q.** What is the style ?

**A.** Though not sublime and regular, the work is written in an elegant and engaging style.

### CHAPTER III.

#### *Lycurgus.*

**Q.** Who was Lycurgus ?

**A.** Lycurgus was a celebrated lawgiver of Sparta, who flourished about 884 years before Christ. He reigned over his native country, until his nephew Charilaus had arrived at years of maturity: he afterward travelled in Asia and Egypt, to observe the manners of the different nations, and to ascertain the nature of their political institutions.

**Q.** What did Lycurgus do at his return ?

**A.** Lycurgus, upon his return, set about reforming the abuses of the state, and framing laws to render the Spartans a warlike people, and passionately devoted to their country.

**T.** Give a general outline of his plan.

**P.** Lycurgus made an equal division of property; he appointed the same dress to be worn by all orders of the state; forbade the use of any other than iron money; and formed a system of national education, which, inuring the Spartain youth to



toil and hardships, rendered them intrepid and magnanimous.

*Q.* By what stratagem did Lycurgus insure the continuance of his laws ?

*A.* Although Lycurgus was successful in establishing these laws, yet, conceiving that posterity might degenerate, he bound all the Spartans by a solemn oath, that they would not alter, violate, or abolish them before his return ; and soon after, he put himself to death, in Crete, and ordered his ashes to be thrown into the sea.

*Q.* How long did the laws of Lycurgus remain in force ?

*A.* They remained in force about 700 years.

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## CHAPTER IV.

### *Romulus.*

*Q.* Who was Romulus ?

*A.* Romulus was the founder of Rome, and a great legislator.

*Q.* What is remarkable in his life ?

*A.* Romulus and his twin brother Remus were thrown into the Tiber, by command of Amulius, who usurped the crown of his brother Numitor. The water at the time was too shallow to drown them, and they are said to have been fed by a wolf with her milk until found by Faustulus, the king's shepherd, who educated them as his children

**Q.** What were his subsequent adventures?

**A.** When Romulus and his brother grew up and knew their origin, they killed Amulius, and restored the crown to their grandfather Numitor : they then took omens for the honor of building a city on the spot of their preservation ; and Romulus, being successful, laid the foundation of Rome, called after his name, which afterward became the mistress of the civilized world.

**Q.** How did he die ?

**A.** He disappeared during a storm, while reviewing his army : he is thought by some to have been murdered by his soldiers, by others he is said to have been taken up to heaven ; the Romans, therefore, worshipped him under the name of *Quirinus*.

## CHAPTER V.

### *Numa Pompilius.*

**Q.** WHO was Numa Pompilius?

**A.** Numa Pompilius was a native of Cures, a Sabine village, and was born 753 years before Christ.

**Q.** What were his habits?

**A.** He was fond of study and retirement.

**Q.** What honor was conferred on him?

**A.** When he had attained the age of thirty-nine,

the Romans, on the death of Romulus, elected him their king.

*Q.* Did Numa readily accept this honor?

*A.* Preferring an independent privacy, he refused compliance; and it was only after the repeated entreaties of his friends, that he was induced to accept the crown.

*Q.* How did he act, after he became king?

*A.* His care was to enjoin a reverence for religion, to soften the manners of the people, and to form civil institutions favorable to the continuance of peace and order.

*Q.* What means did he use to procure respect for his laws?

*A.* He encouraged the report that he held an habitual intercourse with the nymph Egeria, and that the laws which he ordained were sanctioned by her authority: he declared also, that the safety of the state depended on the sacred shield, which he alleged had descended from heaven, and which he required should be guarded with unremitted care.

*Q.* How long did Numa reign?

*A.* Numa reigned 43 years; and at his death he was deeply regretted, not only by his own subjects, but also by those of the neighboring tribes.

## CHAPTER VI.

### *Æsop.*

**Q.** Who was *Æsop*?

**A.** *Æsop* was a celebrated writer, and was born in Phrygia, in the condition of a slave.

**Q.** What are his writings?

**A.** The fables now extant which bear his name are supposed to have been written by *Æsop*; but some think that they are only a collection of all the fables and moral tales before and after his time, together with his own.

**Q.** What was the manner of his death?

**A.** *Æsop*, after residing at the court of his patron, Cræsus, king of Lydia, was sent by that prince to consult the oracle at Delphi; but indulging in the natural sallies of his wit, he was accused of sacrilege by the Delphians, who killed him by throwing him from a rock, about 561 years before Christ.

## CHAPTER VII.

### *Pythagoras.*

**Q.** Who was *Pythagoras*?

**A.** *Pythagoras* was a celebrated philosopher of Samos, who travelled through Egypt and Chaldea

to India in search of knowledge, and returning, opened a school in Crotona.

*Q.* What were the superior endowments of this philosopher?

*A.* Pythagoras was remarkable for his strength and agility, for which he was crowned at the Olympic games, in the eighteenth year of his age. He was admired for his skill in poetry, music, and medicine, as well as for his knowledge of mathematics and natural philosophy, which he communicated with consummate grace and eloquence.

*Q.* What are the principal doctrines of Pythagoras?

*A.* He exhorted men to frugality, benevolence, philanthropy, veneration for parents, and devotion to the gods. He taught the transmigration of souls; prohibited the eating of flesh; and held that the universe was created by a powerful being, who continued as its mover and soul.

*Q.* Where did he die?

*A.* Both the time and the place of the death of Pythagoras are uncertain: he is supposed to have died 535 years before Christ; and so much was this great philosopher venerated, that he received the same honors as were paid to the immortal gods, and his house became a sacred temple

## CHAPTER VIII.

*Lucius Junius Brutus.*

**Q.** WHO was Lucius Junius Brutus ?

**A.** Lucius Junius Brutus, a distinguished Roman, was the son of Marcus Junius, by Tarquinia, daughter of King Tarquinius Priscus.

**Q.** For what cause was the surname Brutus imposed ?

**A.** His father and elder brother had been slain by Tarquinius Superbus : apprehending a similar fate, he counterfeited insanity, and was suffered to live, as beneath the notice of the tyrant ; the name Brutus was added, on account of his apparent stupidity.

**Q.** What circumstance discovered his true character ?

**A.** When the virtuous Lucretia killed herself, on account of the violence that had been offered to her by one of the sons of Tarquin, he drew the dagger from the wound and resolved to expel the royal family.

**Q.** Did the conduct of Brutus rouse the Romans ?

**A.** The Tarquins were proscribed, and supreme authority was committed to the consuls.

**Q.** What example of stern justice did Brutus exhibit ?

**A.** His sons having engaged in a conspiracy to restore the abjured family, were tried before their

father, and condemned ; nor did he decline being present at their execution.

*Q.* How did he die ?

*A.* In an engagement with the enemy, Brutus and Aruns, son of the late king, met with such fury, that they both fell pierced with mutual wounds. The body was brought to Rome, to be honorably interred ; and for a year the matrons lamented Brutus as the father of his country.

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## CHAPTER IX.

### *Anacreon.*

*Q.* WHO was Anacreon ?

*A.* Anacreon was a Greek poet, a native of Teos, a town of Ionia.

*Q.* Of what form and nature are his poems ?

*A.* They are short lyrical compositions, such as may be accompanied with the music of the lyre, and are of a light amatory nature.

*Q.* Are the poems of Anacreon favorable to morality ?

*A.* They are of a gay character, and abound with exhortations to seize pleasure ; but they cannot be said to contain what is positively immoral.

*Q.* How did Anacreon die ?

*A.* In his eighty-fifth year, he was choked by the seed of a grape. He flourished 532 years before Christ.

## CHAPTER X.

*Solon.*

**Q** Who was Solon?

**A** Solon was one of the wise men of Greece, and the lawgiver of the Athenians, who flourished about 500 years before the Christian era.

**Q.** What is remarkable of his life?

**A.** After devoting the early part of his life to philosophical and political studies, he was called upon, by his fellow-citizens, to remove the then existing evils, and to devise some salutary constitution for the state.

**Q.** Where did he die?

**A.** Solon having bound the Athenian citizens by a solemn oath, that they would faithfully observe his laws for the space of 100 years, retired from Athens, and died in Cyprus; the salutary effects of his laws may be concluded, from their being in full force 400 years after his death.

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CHAPTER XI.*Pindar.*

**Q** Who was Pindar?

**A.** Pindar was a Theban, who lived between the 521st and the 435th years before Christ.

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**Q.** How were his early years spent?

**A.** The early years of Pindar were spent in studying music and poetry; from Myrtis and Corinna he learned to compose verses.

**Q.** What story is told as emblematical of his future greatness?

**A.** It is said, that while Pindar was a youth, a swarm of bees settled around his lips; as if predicting the fertility and sweetness of his productions.

**Q.** How did Pindar succeed in contests with those by whom he had been instructed?

**A.** In a contest of music, Pindar overcame Myrtis; but in poetical competitions, he was five times overcome by Corinna; the prizes, however, being, in the opinion of some, awarded out of respect rather to her beauty than her genius.

**Q.** What were the subjects on which Pindar composed verses?

**A.** Pindar wrote hymns to the gods, and odes to the conquerors at the great Grecian games; but the latter are the only compositions that remain.

**Q.** What is the character of these odes?

**A.** His odes are admired for grandeur of expression, magnificence of style, boldness of metaphors, and harmony of numbers.

## CHAPTER XII.

*Herodotus.*

Q. Who was Herodotus?

A. Herodotus was a native of Halicarnassus, who flourished about 440 years before Christ.

Q. How did he distinguish himself?

A. Having left his country, oppressed by Lygdamis, he returned after he had surveyed the most celebrated countries, and succeeded in expelling the tyrant.

Q. How was this action received?

A. Instead of procuring admiration, it displeased the populace; and Herodotus was again obliged to flee.

Q. On what occasion did he afterward appear at the public games?

A. When in his thirty-ninth year, Herodotus appeared at the Olympic games; and recited his history, which was received with such applause, that its nine books were named after the nine Muses.

Q. What does this work contain?

A. The History of Herodotus contains the wars of the Greeks and Persians, with an account of other celebrated nations.

Q. What title did it procure its author?

A. Herodotus is named the father of history.

Q. What are the merits of this composition?

A. The history of Herodotus is written with ease and elegance; if it contain a portion of the incredible, it was the manner of the age, and it is related on the authority of others.

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## CHAPTER XIII.

### *Thucydides.*

Q. Who was Thucydides?

A. Thucydides was a native of Athens, and lived between the 471st and the 391st years before Christ.

Q. How did he employ himself?

A. Thucydides entered the army, and was sent to relieve Amphipolis; but the quick march of the Lacedæmonian general prevented his success.

Q. What was the consequence of his failure?

A. He was banished from Athens.

Q. What did Thucydides do in his banishment?

A. Thucydides wrote a history of the Peloponnesian War.

Q. What is the character of this work?

A. The history is correct and impartial, without any appearance of resentment against his countrymen; his style is glowing and animated.

Q. Where did he die?

A. Thucydides having been recalled from banishment, died at his native city.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### *Sophocles.*

**T.** DESCRIBE the early life of Sophocles.

**P.** Sophocles was born at Colone, in Attica, about 497 years before Christ; he was a commander in the Athenian army, and was elected to the dignity of archon, which was the highest honor in the republic.

**Q.** What are his writings?

**A.** Sophocles wrote one hundred and twenty tragedies, and obtained the prize for poetry twenty times; of his tragedies, only seven remain; and they prove him to have advanced the drama almost to perfection.

**Q.** What is related of his sons?

**A.** The unnatural sons of Sophocles, displeased at the long life of their father, accused him of insanity; Sophocles made no other defence than by reading a tragedy which he had just finished, and which represents an old man despoiled by his children; the judges, indignant at the charge, confirmed him in his possessions, and with the whole body of the people conducted him home in triumph.

**Q.** What was the manner of his death?

**A.** The death of Sophocles is said to have been caused by excessive joy, at obtaining a poetical prize in the Olympic games, in the ninety-first year of his age.

CATECHISM OF

CHAPTER XV.

*Euripides.*

Q. Who was Euripides?

A. Euripides was a great tragic poet, was a native of Salamis; he lived from the 485th to the 407th year before Christ.

Q. How many tragedies did he write?

A. He wrote seventy-five, but nineteen only remain; among the most admired of these, are Orestes, Medea, and Electra.

Q. What are the distinguishing qualities of his plays?

A. The tragedies of Euripides, while they are by no means destitute of sublimity, are chiefly distinguished by tenderness, elegance, and pathos.

Q. Did the tragedies of Euripides produce a powerful effect?

A. The effect was so powerful, that several Greeks in slavery obtained freedom for the repetition of some verses from the plays of Euripides.

Q. Where did Euripides reside?

A. Euripides resided at Athens; but his merit was attended with envy and even ridicule; he left, at length, this city for the court of Archelaus, the Macedonian king, by whom he was entertained with royal generosity.

Q. How did Euripides die?

A. In a solitary walk he was met by the dogs of the monarch and torn to pieces

## CHAPTER XVI.

*Miltiades.*

**Q** Who was Miltiades?

**A.** Miltiades was a valiant and patriotic Athenian general, who lived about 490 years before the Christian era.

**Q.** What remarkable achievement have you to relate of him?

**A.** Miltiades has immortalized his name by the important victory he obtained at Marathon, with 10,000 Greeks, over the Persian army of Darius, consisting of above 100,000 men.

**Q.** What else have you to relate of him?

**A.** Miltiades was afterward invested with the command of the Athenian fleet; but, being falsely accused of treason, he was thrown into prison, where he died of his wounds.

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CHAPTER XVII.*Leonidas.*

**Q.** Who was Leonidas?

**A.** Leonidas was the King of Sparta, who with a small body of men bravely opposed the whole Persian army under Xerxes.

**T.** Describe the engagement.

**P.** Xerxes advanced to the conquest of Greece


with an army of two millions of men, and the Greeks resolved to make a stand against the enemy at the Straits of Thermopylæ; this position was maintained during three days, and Leonidas, with his 300 Spartans alone, refused to abandon the pass, when they were betrayed; but making a dreadful havoc among the enemy, nobly devoted their lives for their country.

*Q.* When was this battle fought?

*A.* This celebrated battle, to which there is no parallel in history, was fought on the 7th of August, about 480 years before Christ. Temples were raised to the fallen hero, and games celebrated to his memory.

*Q.* What reply did Leonidas make to Xerxes, when a herald was sent to demand his arms?

*A.* He replied, *Come and take them.*



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## CHAPTER XVIII.

### *Aristides.*

*Q.* Who was Aristides?

*A.* Aristides was an illustrious Athenian, surnamed the *Just*, on account of his integrity, who lived about 480 years before Christ.

*Q.* What are the most remarkable occurrences of his life?

*A.* Aristides was not less remarkable for his bravery than for moral excellence; he was ap-

pointed chief commander with Pausanias against Mardonius, whom they defeated at Platæa; Themistocles, afterwards envying him, caused him to be banished; but before six years of his exile were elapsed, he was recalled by the Athenians.

*Q.* What remarkable circumstance appeared at his death?

*A.* The honesty of Aristides was so great, that, though he passed through the highest employments of the State, he did not leave money enough to defray the expense of his funeral. He was buried at the public charge; and his two daughters, on account of their father's virtues, received a dowry from the public treasury when they came to marriageable years.

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## CHAPTER XIX.

### *Coriolanus.*

*Q.* Who was Coriolanus?

*A.* Coriolanus was a Roman, who, from a private soldier, raised himself to the highest honors by his valor and generosity; but was afterwards banished by the malice of an ungrateful people.

*Q.* What was the effect of this upon Coriolanus?

*A.* Coriolanus retired, in resentment, to the Volsci, who were the greatest enemies of the Romans; and, being hospitably received, he advised them to make war against Rome, and put himself at their head as their general.



*T.* Describe the subsequent conduct of Coriolanus.

*P.* After subjecting the Roman territories, he advanced, at the head of a numerous army, to besiege the city of Rome itself: the senate and people, much alarmed at his determination, sent several embassies to reconcile him; but they all proved fruitless, till, being moved by the tears and embraces of his mother Veturia, his wife, and his two children, he drew off his army.

*Q.* What was the manner of his death?

*A.* The behavior of Coriolanus displeased the Volsci, and he was summoned before the people; on the day appointed, the clamor against him was so great, that he was murdered before the trial.

*Q.* In what year did he die?

*A.* The death of Coriolanus happened 448 years before Christ, after a late and ineffectual repentance. He was honored with a magnificent funeral, and the matrons of Rome put on mourning for his loss.

**NOTE.**—The senate of Rome commanded a temple to be erected on the spot where the interview between Coriolanus and his mother took place, and dedicated it to maternal influence.

## CHAPTER XX.

*Themistocles.*

**Q.** Who was Themistocles ?

**A.** Themistocles was an illustrious and patriotic Athenian commander, contemporary with Aristides

**Q.** What action have you to record of him ?

**A.** Themistocles was the father of the naval power of Athens ; but upon his being appointed to the supreme command against Xerxes, the jealousies of the other generals would have proved fatal to the cause of Greece, had he not freely relinquished his power—thus showing them, that his ambition could stoop, when his country demanded the sacrifice.

**Q.** What was the result of his temperance ?

**A.** Themistocles thus united the whole Grecian force, and directed an attack on the Persian fleet lying at Salamis : the battle was decisive ; and by this victory he delivered his country from the invader's tyranny.

**Q.** What afterwards became of Themistocles ?

**A.** Some time after this signal victory, Themistocles was banished through the jealousy of his fellow-citizens, and he retired to the court of Artaxerxes, where he was received in a friendly manner ; but, being requested to direct the war against his native but ungrateful country, rather than disoblige his benefactor, or be an unworthy son of Athens, he killed himself by taking poison, 449 years before Christ.

## CHAPTER XXI.

*Pausanias.*

**Q.** WHO was Pausanias?

**A.** Pausanias was a king of Lacedæmon, who distinguished himself by the defeat of the Persian army under Mardonius, at Plataea.

**Q.** When was this battle fought?

**A.** The battle of Plataea was fought about 479 years before Christ. The Persian army amounted to 300,000 men, scarcely 3000 of whom escaped the slaughter; while the loss of the Greeks did not exceed 610. Pausanias received the tenth of all the spoils, on account of his uncommon valor during the engagement.

**Q.** What was the manner of his death?

**A.** Pausanias, being afterwards detected of having conspired against his country, took sanctuary in a temple, where he was starved to death, the building being surrounded by heaps of stones; the first of which was carried by the indignant mother of the unhappy man.

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CHAPTER XXII.*Epaminondas.*

**Q.** WHO was Epaminondas?

**A.** Epaminondas was a famous Theban general, and incorruptible patriot of royal origin, cele-

brated for his private virtues and military accomplishments: his love of truth was so great, that he never disgraced himself by a falsehood.

*Q.* What are his most remarkable adventures?

*A.* By the advice of Epaminondas, Thebes was delivered from the power of Lacedæmon. During the war that followed, he raised the military glory of his country, and obtained the celebrated victory at Leuctra about 371 years before Christ. He then marched into the enemy's territories, where he gained many partizans and friends.

*Q.* What was the situation of affairs on his return?

*A.* When Epaminondas returned to Thebes, he was seized as a traitor, for violating the laws of his country; and all his eminent services seemed unable to redeem him from death.

*Q.* What defence did he make?

*A.* Epaminondas paid implicit obedience to the laws of his country, and only begged of his judges, that it might be inscribed on his tomb, that he suffered death for having saved his country from ruin: this animated reproach was felt; he was pardoned, and again invested with the sovereign command.

*Q.* What else have you to record of him?

*A.* He afterwards carried on several successful wars, and again engaged with the Lacedæmonians at Mantinea, where he received a mortal wound

**NOTE.**—In the midst of his successes, he had violated the law which forbade any citizen to retain the supreme power more than one month.

while bravely fighting in the thickest of the enemy, but survived till he heard that his army was victorious.

*Q.* In what year did he die?

*A.* Epaminondas died about 363 years before Christ, in the 48th year of his age: the Thebans sincerely lamented his loss; in him their power was extinguished, for only during his life they had enjoyed freedom and independence among the Grecian States.

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## CHAPTER XXIII.

### *Socrates.*

*Q.* WHO was Socrates?

*A.* Socrates was the son of Sophoniscus, a statuary; he was the most renowned of the ancient philosophers, and called the father of philosophy

*Q.* What was the employment of Socrates?

*A.* Socrates followed for some time the occupation of his father: he also appeared, like the rest of his countrymen, in the field of battle, and fought with boldness and intrepidity; but he is chiefly conspicuous as a philosopher and moralist.

*Q.* What character is given of this great man?

*A.* Socrates was fond of labor, and had inured himself to hardships; he bore injuries with patience, and the insults of malice or resentment

he treated with contempt; his pupils were numerous, and were instructed by his exemplary life, as much as by his doctrines.

*Q.* What were the subjects of his lectures?

*A.* Socrates, in his lectures, considered the nature of piety, impiety, honor, dishonor, justice, and injustice; in all which he showed independence of spirit, and a great superiority of mind over his countrymen.

*Q.* What were the consequences of his superior talents?

*A.* The superior attainments of Socrates created him many enemies: he was ridiculed on the stage, and accused of having made innovations in the religion of the Greeks.

*Q.* What was the manner of his death?

*A.* Socrates was condemned, by a majority of only three voices, to drink the juice of hemlock. While in prison, he discoursed with his friends upon different subjects with his usual cheerfulness and serenity, and, when the hour to drink the poison was come, the executioner presented it with tears in his eyes. Socrates received it with composure, and drinking it with an unaltered countenance, in a few moments expired, in the 70th year of his age, and about 400 years before Christ.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

*Plato.*

*Q.* Who was Plato?

*A.* Plato, the son of Ariston, was an Athenian philosopher, who lived between the 429th and the 348th years before Christ.

*Q.* How was his youth spent?

*A.* Plato was trained to gymnastic exercises, and to the study of mathematics and poetry.

*Q.* What was the effect of these studies?

*A.* From his early studies, Plato derived that union of fancy and acuteness by which his writings are distinguished.

*Q.* What were his first compositions?

*A.* Plato began with writing tragic and pætic pieces.

*Q.* Did he continue to cultivate this species of composition?

*A.* Having, at the age of 20, been introduced to Socrates, he acquired more accurate habits; and, examining more rigidly his own productions, committed them in dissatisfaction to the flames.

*Q.* Was Plato long with Socrates?

*A.* For eight years Plato was the pupil of Socrates.

*Q.* What tribute of respect did Plato pay to the memory of his master?

*A.* Plato composed a minute and interesting detail of the worth and wisdom of Socrates, and the manner in which he met his fate.

**Q.** After the death of Socrates, how did Plato employ himself?

**A.** To enlarge his acquaintance with science and mankind, Plato visited Greece, Sicily, and Egypt; conversed with the learned, and examined the works of nature.

**Q.** How was Plato next occupied?

**A.** Plato opened an academy in the neighborhood of Athens; and for forty years was attended by distinguished pupils, and employed in writing.

**Q.** Did the manner of Plato discover the pride of learning?

**A.** Plato was mild and unostentatious, not boasting of his attainments, but mixing with the world on equal terms.

**Q.** By what name was Plato distinguished;

**A.** On account of the elegance and sauvity of his style, Plato was called the Athenian bee.

**Q.** Had Plato any just view of the government of Providence?

**A.** Plato taught, that amidst all the afflictions and changes of life, man is still the object of Divine regard.

**Q.** What other great truth did Plato hold?

**A.** Plato followed his instructor Socrates, in maintaining the immortality of the soul; and for his doctrine he added powerful arguments.

**Q.** How did Plato die?

**A.** Plato, as Cicero relates, died while writing; or, according to another account, at an entertainment: but it is agreed that his end was without pain or alarm.



## CHAPTER XXV.

*Xenophon.*

Q. WHO was Xenophon ?

A. Xenophon, the son of Gryllus, was a native of Athens, and was born about the year 440 before Christ.

Q. How was he distinguished ?

A. Xenophon was a general, and an author.

Q. As a general, what action of his is celebrated ?

A. Ten thousand Greeks had followed the fortunes of Cyrus, in his attempt to dethrone his brother Artaxerxes. After the defeat of the prince, the Greeks found themselves 600 leagues from home, and in an enemy's country; Xenophon conducted them in safety through its deserts and rivers.

Q. What are some of the writings of Xenophon ?

A. Among the writings of Xenophon are the *Anabasis*, an account of that action in which he had so important a share; the *Cyropædia*, a life of Cyrus; and the *Memorabilia* and *Apology*, accounts of the life and opinions of Socrates.

Q. What are the characters of his writings ?

A. Ease, simplicity, and elegance mark the style of Xenophon; and in his sentiments we find the love of virtue and of religion.

Q. Where did he die ?

A. He died at Corinth, in the 90th year of his age.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

### *Alcibiades.*

**Q.** WHO WAS Alcibiades?

**A.** Alcibiades was an Athenian general, a disciple of Socrates, famous for his versatile genius and enterprising spirit.

**Q.** What are his most remarkable adventures?

**A.** While Alcibiades was absent on an expedition against Syracuse, he was accused of impiety; upon which he fled, and stirred up the Spartans to make war upon Athens. Being unsuccessful in this, he retired to Persia; but being recalled by the Athenians, and being placed at the head of their army, he compelled the Lacedæmonians to sue for peace, and was received in triumph at Athens.

**Q.** What were his subsequent adventures?

**A.** His popularity was of short duration; and he fled to Persia, where he endeavored to excite a war against the Lacedæmonians, which, being told to Lysander, their general, he prevailed on the Persians to murder Alcibiades.

**Q.** What was the manner of his death?

**A.** Two servants were sent to dispatch him; and they set on fire the cottage in which he resided, and killed him with darts as he attempted to make his escape. Before Christ, 404.

## CHAPTER XXVII.

*Diogenes.*

**Q.** Who was Diogenes ?

**A.** Diogenes was a celebrated Cynic philosopher born 420 years before Christ, at Sinope, from which place he was banished, and he retired to Athens.

**T.** Relate some of his singularities.

**P.** Diogenes was remarkable for his contempt of riches, and for his negligence in dress: he had no food but what was brought to him daily; and he lived in a tub, the open side of which he turned toward the sun in winter, and the contrary side in summer.

**T.** Describe his interview with Alexander the Great.

**P.** Alexander, having heard of Diogenes, condescended to visit him in his tub, and even offered him any thing he should desire. *Get out of my sunshine,* said he, *lest thou take from me what thou canst not give me.* Alexander was so struck with this reply, that he declared, if he were not Alexander, he could be content to be Diogenes.

**Q.** When did he die ?

**A.** After a life spent in the greatest misery and indigence, Diogenes died in the year 324 before Christ, at the advanced age of 96 years. He is remarkable for his singularities; but his assumed virtues arose from pride and vanity, not from wisdom or sound philosophy.

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

*Alexander the Great.*

**Q** Who was Alexander?

**A.** Alexander was the son of Philip, King of Macedon; he succeeded his father on the throne, and proved himself to be a prince of extraordinary talents and ambition.

**T.** Relate some of his actions.

**P.** Alexander began his great enterprises about the 17th year of his age. In 12 years he conquered Thrace and Illyricum, and destroyed Thebes; he defeated Darius in three pitched battles; and having thus overturned the empire of the Persians, he made himself master of all Greece, Syria, Egypt, almost all the East, and the greater part of the then known world.

**Q.** What else have you to relate of Alexander?

**A.** His victories and continued success increased his pride, and he ordered himself to be worshipped as a God; Callisthenes, who refused to do so, was put to death; Clitus his friend, who had once saved his life in battle, was slain by Alexander himself, for preferring the virtues and exploits of his father to his.

**Q.** Where did he die, and what character is given of him?

**A.** Alexander died at Babylon, B. C. 323, in the

32d year of his age: his death is attributed to poison, or excessive drinking. With all his pride, he was humane and liberal, and a great patron of learning; he was brave, often to rashness.

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## CHAPTER XXIX.

### *Aristotle.*

**Q.** Who was Aristotle?

**A.** Aristotle was a famous philosopher, son of a physician, and was born at Stagira, 384 years before Christ; after he had spent 20 years with Plato, he opened a school for himself, in which he taught philosophy.

**Q.** To whom was he preceptor?

**A.** Aristotle was ten years preceptor to Alexander, who ever after respected him, and received his instructions with deference.

**Q.** What high encomiums are recorded of him?

**A.** Philip, Alexander's father, wrote to Aristotle in these words: "I inform you I have a son; I thank the gods not so much for making me a father, as for giving me a son in an age when he can have Aristotle for his instructor; I hope you will make him a successor worthy of me, and a king worthy of Macedonia." He has also been called by Plato "the Philosopher of Truth."

**Q.** What writings of Aristotle have been transmitted to us?

A. The writings of Aristotle treat of almost every branch of knowledge known in his time : moral and natural philosophy, metaphysics, mathematics, mechanics, grammar, criticism, and politics, all exercised his pen.

Q. What character is given of him ?

A. Aristotle was a man of eloquence, universal knowledge, facility and acuteness of invention, and fecundity of thought ; he was moderate in his means, slept little, and was indefatigably industrious.

Q. In what year did Aristotle die ?

A. He died about the year 322 before Christ, and in the 63d year of his age.

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## CHAPTER XXX.

### *Demosthenes.*

Q. WHO was Demosthenes ?

A. Demosthenes was the son of an Athenian armorer, and being left to the care of guardians, his education was totally neglected ; but, by industry and application, he became the most famous orator of Greece.

Q. What impediments had he to surmount ?

A. His rising talents were impeded by weak lungs, and a difficulty of pronouncing the letter *r* ; to remove the stammering of his voice, he spoke with pebbles in his mouth ; and, to acquire a correct and sonorous mode of speaking, he frequently

ran up the steepest and most uneven walks, or declaimed upon the sea-shore, when the waves were violently agitated.

*Q.* What have you to record of his political life?

*A.* The abilities of Demosthenes as an orator soon placed him at the head of the Athenien government; in that capacity, he aroused the people from their indolence, and animated them against the encroachments and usurpations of Philip, King of Macedon, as well as against the demands of his successor, Alexander.

*Q.* What failings have been laid to his charge?

*A.* In the battle of the Cheronæa, this great orator left a stain upon his memory, by throwing away his shield to escape; and his virtue was said not to be incorruptible, as he was accused of receiving a bribe, and was thrown into prison, from which, however, he made his escape by the assistance of his friends.

*Q.* What was the manner of his death?

*A.* When Antipater succeeded Alexander, he fled to save his life; and when he saw that no hope of safety remained, he drank poison, which he always carried about with him, that he might not fall into the hands of his enemies, and died in the 62d year of his age.

*Q.* What have you to remark of his writings?

*A.* The orations of Demosthenes, which remain to this day, have always been celebrated as the most perfect models of eloquence extant; they are particularly distinguished by their elegance of style, force of argument, keen satire, and writhing sarcasm.

## CHAPTER XXXI.

*Euclid.*

**Q.** Who was Euclid ?

**A.** Euclid was a famous mathematician and musician, of Alexandria, in Egypt, who flourished 300 years before the Christian era. He was so respected, that King Ptolemy became one of his pupils ; and Plato himself, a great mathematician, as well as eminent in general science, held him in the highest esteem.

**Q.** What are his writings ?

**A.** Euclid distinguished himself by his writings on music and geometry : 15 books of problems and theorems, with demonstrations, now remain ; and although much mutilated by commentators, are still taught as the basis of mathematics.

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## CHAPTER XXXII.

*Theocritus.*

**Q.** Who was Theocritus ?

**A.** Theocritus, the son of Praxagoras and Philina, was a Greek poet, who flourished 282 years before Christ.

**Q.** What species of poetry did he cultivate ?

**A.** Theocritus wrote pastorals, and other small poems.



**Q.** What is the merit of his poems ?

**A.** They are easy and elegant ; but the refinement with which his shepherds converse, is more than is sanctioned by nature.

**Q.** Has Theocritus been imitated by succeeding poets ?

**A.** Theocritus has been imitated by Virgil in his Eclogues ; and, indeed, by writers of pastoral poetry in all ages, who have drawn from him and their more immediate predecessors, rather than from nature.

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## CHAPTER XXXIII.

### *Epicurus.*

**Q.** WHO was Epicurus ?

**A.** Epicurus was a celebrated philosopher of Athens ; he studied under Xenocrates and Aristotle ; and afterward founding a sect, attracted a great number of followers by the sweetness and gravity of his manner, and by his social virtues.

**Q.** What were his chief doctrines ?

**A.** Epicurus taught that the happiness of man consists in pleasure ; not such as arises from sensual gratification, or from vice, but from the enjoyments of the mind, and the delights of virtue.

**Q.** What character is given of him ?

*A.* Epicurus was a temperate and sober man, contented to live on bread and water. He refuted all the accusations of his adversaries by the purity of his morals, and by his frequent attendance on places of public worship.

*Q.* When did he die ?

*A.* Epicurus, having impaired his health by continual labor, died in the 72d year of his age, about 270 years before Christ ; and his followers, who were numerous, rapidly disseminated his doctrines over all the world.

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## CHAPTER XXXIV.

### *Archimedes.*

*Q.* Who was Archimedes ?

*A.* Archimedes was a famous geometrician and astronomer, of Syracuse, in Sicily.

*T.* Mention some of his inventions.

*P.* He invented a machine of glass, to show the motions of the heavenly bodies ; he constructed machines which suddenly raised up the Roman ships from the bay, during the siege of Syracuse, and then let them fall with such violence that they sunk ; he also set them on fire with burning-glasses.

*Q.* What was the manner of his death ?

*A.* When Marcellus, the Roman general, took Syracuse, he gave a special charge to save Archi-

medes ; he was killed, however, by a Roman soldier, who was ignorant of his character, while the philosopher was engaged at his studies, about the year 212 before Christ.

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## CHAPTER XXXV.

### *Hannibal.*

*Q.* WHO was Hannibal ?

*A.* Hannibal was a celebrated Carthagenian general, son of Amilcar : he was a man of great valor and conduct, and well versed in all the stratagems of war, having been educated in his father's camp, and inured from his early years to the labors of the field.

*Q.* What remarkable step did his father take to mark his future character ?

*A.* When only nine years old, Hannibal followed his father into Spain, and there Amilcar made him swear in the most solemn manner, before an altar, that he would never be at friendship with the Romans, nor desist from opposing their power, until he or they should be no more.

*Q.* What are his subsequent adventures ?

*A.* Upon the death of his father, Hannibal was invested with the command of all the armies of Carthage, although not yet in the 25th year of his age ; and having resolved to carry the war into Italy, he crossed the Alps, and marched toward Rome.

**Q** What was his success in Italy ?

**A.** He defeated the Romans in four memorable battles : in the last, which happened at Cannæ, 40,000 Romans were killed ; but, instead of marching directly to Rome, he removed his army to Capua, where his soldiers were enervated by the pleasures of that luxurious city.

**Q.** Where did Hannibal next engage ?

**A.** The Romans, having transferred the war to Carthage, Hannibal was recalled from Italy ; and engaging with Scipio, at Zama, suffered a signal defeat.

**Q.** Where did he go after his defeat ?

**A.** When Hannibal saw the day was lost, he retired to Antiochus, King of Syria, whom he advised to make war upon the Romans ; but being conquered, he agreed to deliver up Hannibal to them ; upon hearing this, Hannibal fled to Prusias, King of Bithynia, whom he encouraged to declare war against Rome.

**Q.** What occurred in Bithynia ?

**A.** The Romans, hearing he was in Bithynia, sent ambassadors to demand him of Prusias ; the king

**NOTE.**—This expedition will appear more surprising, when we consider the prodigious height and tremendous steepness of these mountains, capped with snow, the inhabitants barbarous and fierce, dressed in skins with long and shaggy hair, and hostile to the Carthagenians. It was undertaken, too, in the depth of winter ; but nothing was capable of subduing the courage of Hannibal ; and, at the end of 15 days, he found himself in the plains of Italy, with about half his army, the other half having died of cold, or been cut off by the natives.

was unwilling either to betray his friend, or to brave the Roman power; but Hannibal relieved him from his embarrassment, by taking poison, which he always carried with him in a ring on his finger. He died 182 years before Christ.

Q. What character is given of Hannibal?

A. Hannibal is considered the most skilful commander of antiquity; he was the best horseman, and the swiftest runner of his time; no fatigue was able to subdue his body, nor any misfortune to break his spirits: he was equally patient of heat and cold, and he took sustenance merely to content nature, not to delight his appetite

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## CHAPTER XXXVI.

### *Cato.*

Q. Who were the most celebrated men of this name?

A. The Romans of this name, who rendered themselves most illustrious, were Marcus Portius Cato, surnamed the *Censor*; and his great-grandson, surnamed *Uticensis*, from the place of his death.

Q. What is remarkable in the life of Cato the *Censor*?

A. Cato the *Censor* rose to all the honors of the state, by his bravery, disinterestedness, and strict adherence to justice; he was honored with a

triumph for his exploits in Spain; and when he was created censor, he discharged its duties with so much rigor and impartiality, that the Romans erected him a statue even in his lifetime.

*Q.* What else have you to relate of him?

*A.* Cato, by his rigid severity against luxury and vice, incurred great enmity; he was accused 44 times, but was always acquitted with increased honor. He wrote several books on husbandry, and on various subjects, and learned Greek when he was an old man.

*Q.* What character is left of him?

*A.* Cato was one of the most distinguished characters of ancient Rome, as an orator, a lawyer, a general, a statesman, and a scholar; although remarkable for temperance, he was fond of convivial meetings; and such was his reputation for justice, that Virgil has feigned him one of the judges of hell

*Q.* Who was Cato *Uticensis*?

*A.* M. Porcius Cato *Uticensis* was the great-grandson of the former; and from his very infancy discovered a resolute, firm, and inflexible temper, at once spurning flattery and scorning threats.

**NOTE.**—Lilo, an Italian nobleman, who had come to Rome to solicit for the allies the right of citizens, lodged at the house of Drusus, Cato's uncle; and having become familiar with Cato and his brother Cæpio, asked them one day to intercede with their uncle, that he would favor their cause:—Cæpio gave a smile of consent; but Cato by his silence and looks intimated his refusal; upon which Lilo, snatching him up, carried him to the window, and threatened to throw him over if he would not consent, holding his body out of the window, and shaking him several times; but Cato remained all the time unmoved and unconcerned.

*T.* Relate the most remarkable adventures of his life ?

*P.* Cato served in several campaigns with great reputation ; and in the civil offices which he filled, his integrity was so conspicuous, that it became proverbial : in the conspiracy of Cataline, he supported Cicero ; and the remaining part of his life was employed in unavailing efforts to oppose the unjust designs of those who wished to enslave the commonwealth.

*Q.* What was the manner of his death ?

*A.* Cæsar, having become master of the Roman commonwealth, Cato fled to Africa, where, after the defeat of the republican army under Scipio, he shut himself up in Utica ; and having read Plato's Treatise on the Immortality of the Soul, put an end to his own life, B. c. 46.

*Q.* What have you to observe of this great man ?

*A.* Cato was austere in his morals, and unostentatious in his dress, often appearing barefoot in public, and never travelling but on foot ; he was very jealous of the safety and liberty of the state ; but the Romans, sunk in luxury, and blinded by corruption, lent a deaf ear to all his remonstrances

CHAPTER XXXVII.

*Scipio.*

*Q.* Who was Scipio?

*A.* Scipio was a Roman general, who lived between the 232d and the 184th years before Christ.

*Q.* How did he distinguish himself in early life?

*A.* At the battle of Ticinus, Scipio's valor saved the life of his father.

*Q.* How did Scipio afterward display his magnanimity?

*A.* Some of the Romans wishing, on the defeat at Cannæ by Hannibal, to abandon their country, Scipio made them swear that they would be faithful, and would put to death the first who sought to withdraw.

*Q.* What distinction was conferred on Scipio?

*A.* When in his 21st year, Scipio was created adile, though the legal age was 27.

*Q.* Did Scipio continue to maintain his celebrity?

*A.* Yes: his father and uncle having fallen in Spain, Scipio avenged their death, expelled the Carthagenians, and reduced the country to the form of a province. The Romans still trembled at the progress of Hannibal; but Scipio gave a new turn to the war, by recommending that it should be carried into the country of his adversary, whom



he there engaged and defeated, granting the Carthagenians peace on humiliating conditions.

*Q.* How was Scipio received at Rome?

*A.* Scipio obtained a splendid triumph; and was honored with the surname of *Africanus*,

*Q.* What were the circumstances of his death?

*A.* His fellow-citizens, having ungratefully forgotten his services, Scipio Africanus retired from Rome, and died at his villa of Liternum, ordering that his bones should not be taken to the city.

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## CHAPTER XXXVIII.

### *Polybius.*

*Q.* Who was Polybius?

*A.* Polybius, born about 206 years before Christ, was the son of Lycortas, and a native of Megalopolis, in Greece.

*Q.* How did he employ himself in early life?

*A.* Polybius was early educated in the qualifications of a statesman.

*Q.* How did he afterward distinguish himself?

*A.* He joined Perseus, King of Macedonia, and distinguished himself in war against the Romans.

*Q.* What was the issue of the engagements?

*A.* Perseus was at last defeated, and Polybius, being taken to Rome, was kept in confinement.

*Q.* Did he continue long in this state?

**A.** Scipio and Fabius obtained the freedom of Polybius, and honored him with their friendship.

**Q.** How did Polybius show his sense of Scipio's favor?

**A.** He accompanied him in war, and was present when Carthage and Numantia were taken.

**Q.** How did Polybius show his love for his country?

**A.** By the fortune of war, his country had been rendered a Roman province; Polybius showed his patriotism by exerting his influence with powerful Romans, to procure mild treatment for the Greeks.

**Q.** After the death of Scipio, what became of Polybius?

**A.** Polybius left Rome for Megalopolis, where he spent the remainder of his life, happy in the exercise of the social affections, and in the gratitude of his fellow-citizens.

**Q.** What did Polybius write?

**A.** Polybius wrote a history of the world, from the first Punic war to the conquest of Macedonia.

**Q.** Does much of his history remain?

**A.** Out of 40 books, the first five are extant, with fragments of the next 12.

**Q.** What is the chief excellence of this history?

**A.** Its knowledge of the art of war is profound; but besides, it contains a variety of curious and interesting information.

**Q.** What occasioned the death of Polybius?

**A.** The death of Polybius was occasioned by a fall from his horse.

## CHAPTER XXXIX.

*Gracchi.*

**Q.** WHO were the Gracchi ?

**A.** The Gracchi were two brothers, Tiberius and Caius, the sons of Sempronius Gracchus, who was twice consul of Rome, and once censor : a man of consummate wisdom, and endowed with every virtue.

**Q.** What have you to observe of their youth ?

**A.** The two Gracchi were educated with the utmost care by their mother Cornelia, a woman of uncommon virtue and accomplishments. Tiberius was of a mild and even temper ; but Caius was ardent and passionate : each was, however, distinguished by valor, integrity, and temperance.

**Q.** What is remarkable in the life of the elder ?

**A.** Tiberius Gracchus, while he served in Africa, exceeded all the young men of the army in regularity of behavior, as well as courage : at the taking of Carthage, he was the first who mounted the wall.

**Q.** What was the manner of his death ?

**A.** The nobility having, in a great measure engrossed the property of land, Tiberius, being created tribune of the people, resolved to correct this abuse ; and with persuasive eloquence and uncommon popularity, he revived the Licinian law, which directed that no one should possess more than 500 acres of land ; but in consequence of this he drew on himself the hatred of the nobles, who cut him off in a tumult of the people

**Q.** What was the behavior of Caius, upon the murder of his brother?

**A.** Caius Gracchus, for several years after his brother's death, lived in retirement, applying himself to the study of eloquence, which was the surest way of acquiring influence.

**Q.** What were his subsequent actions?

**A.** Caius afterward served as quætor in Sicily; and upon his return, being elected tribune, he got several laws enacted to increase the authority of the people, and lessen that of the senate.

**Q.** How did he die?

**A.** While Gracchus gained the favor of the people, his virtues and abilities excited the resentment of the nobility, who soon after proposed the repeal of all his laws. This attempt caused great commotion in the city; the consul Opimius, being armed with absolute power, Gracchus ordered his slave to dispatch him, that he might not fall into the hands of his enemies, 121 years before Christ.

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## CHAPTER XL.

### *Marius.*

**Q.** WHO was Marius?

**A.** Marius being first a ploughman, then a common soldier, rose through the different offices of Rome to the highest point of greatness, being seven times consul.

**Q.** What were his most remarkable exploits?

**A.** Marius triumphed over Jugurtha, and added Numidia to the Roman dominions. Immediately after, he defeated the Teutones, with the loss of 200,000 men; and the following year, 140,000 Cimbri were slaughtered by the army, under Marius, who now entered Rome in triumph.

**Q.** What was his subsequent conduct?

**A.** After his triumph, Marius was elected consul a sixth time, when he began to raise seditions, and to envy the power of Sylla. This emulation brought on a civil war, and Marius was compelled to save himself by flight.

**Q.** What circumstance preceded his death?

**A.** Marius, at length, hearing in Africa that his party, with Cinna the consul at their head, had regained the ascendancy, returned to Rome like a conquerer, and with the most horrid cruelty put all his enemies to the sword, without regard to age, dignity, or former services. He died a month after, in the 70th year of his age, 86 years before Christ.

**Q.** What character is given of him?

**A.** Marius raised himself by his military talents

**NOTE.**—Marius, after escaping many dangers, was at last obliged to plunge into a muddy part of the lake Minturnæ, to conceal himself; but being dragged thence, he was put in prison, and a Gaul was sent by the magistrates of Minturnæ to kill him. Marius seeing the Gaul approach, called out, "Fellow! dare you kill Caius Marius?" The Gaul, struck with terror at the sparkling of Marius' eyes, and the tremendous sound of his voice, dropped his sword, and ran out, crying that he could not kill Marius.

alone, without the assistance of learning : he was crafty, cruel, and perfidious ; but he was endowed with incomparable strength and undaunted bravery, which enabled him to become the saviour, and afterward the enslaver of his country.

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## CHAPTER XLI.

### *Sylla.*

*Q.* Who was Sylla ?

*A.* L. Cornelius Sylla was a celebrated Roman, of a noble family, who served as lieutenant under Marius, but afterward excited his jealousy and enmity by his superior abilities.

*T.* Relate the most remarkable of his exploits ?

*P.* Marius, having disputed with Sylla the direction of the Mithridatic War, the latter entered Rome sword in hand, slaughtered all his enemies, and, obliging Marius to flee for his life, marched toward Asia : he rendered himself master of Greece, and hearing that the party of Marius were again masters of Rome, he marched his army to the city.,

*Q.* What was his conduct in Rome ?

*A.* Sylla, having completely subdued his domestic enemies, entered Rome like a tyrant and conqueror, and gratified his revenge with unexampled cruelty : he caused himself to be made perpetual dictator ; and after he had ruled with absolute authority for three years, he resigned his power

and retired to a solitary retreat, where he died 78 years before Christ.

*Q.* What character is given of him?

*A.* The character of Sylla is that of an ambitious, resolute, tyrannical, and debauched commander, who was more indebted to fortune than to valor for his great fame. He patronized the arts and sciences, and brought a famous library from Athens to Rome.

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## CHAPTER XLII.

### *Pompey.*

*Q.* Who was Pompey?

*A.* Cneus Pompey was a valiant and successful commander of the Roman people, who acquired the surname of *Magnus*, or the Great from the greatness of his victories.

*T.* Relate his early exploits.

*P.* Pompey early distinguished himself in the field; and in the civil wars of Marius and Sylla, he sided with the latter, and contributed greatly to his success, by regaining in 40 days Sicily and Africa, which had embraced the cause of Marius.

*Q.* What were his subsequent achievements?

*A.* After the death of Sylla, Pompey defeated the remains of the Marian faction in Spain, under Sertorius; and soon after being made consul, he extirpated the pirates that infested the Mediterranean Sea. On his return he was sent against

Mithridates, and finished the war with great glory, having added to the empire three powerful kingdoms,—Pontus, Syria, and Bithynia.

*Q.* What was his reception at Rome?

*A.* The Romans dreaded the approach of Pompey, lest he should subvert their liberties; but he disbanded his army, and returning to Rome as a private citizen, was joyfully received and honored with a splendid triumph. It would have been happy for himself and for his country, if he had died at this time, in the height of his fame and fortunes.

*T.* Briefly describe the rest of his adventures

*P.* Pompey formed a combination with Cæsar and Crassus, for the division of provinces; but the latter dying, a civil war ensued, in which Pompey was defeated at Pharsalia, and afterward slain in his flight to Egypt, in the 59th year of his age, 48 years before Christ.

*Q.* What character is given of him?

*A.* The character of Pompey is that of an intriguing and artful general, but without sufficient boldness to make himself master of his country: he had a dignity in his aspect, mixed with gentleness, which commanded respect; and his death is a striking instance of the instability of human greatness. //



## CHAPTER XLIII.

*Julius Cæsar.*

*Q.* WHO was Julius Cæsar?

*A.* Julius Cæsar was the son of Catus Cæsar, who was descended from Julius the son of Æneas. In the 16th year of his age, Cæsar lost his father; and Sylla, aware of his ambition, endeavored to remove him; but his friends obtained his life: but Sylla warned them to be upon their guard against that loose-girt boy; "for in him," said he, "is many a Marius."

*Q.* What were his subsequent adventures?

*A.* Cæsar procured many friends by his eloquence, and obtained the office of high-priest. After passing through different dignities, he was sent governor into Spain; and upon his return, being elected consul, he entered into an agreement with Pompey and Crassus, that nothing should be done in the state without their joint concurrence.

*Q.* What appointment succeeded his consulship?

*A.* Cæsar, after his consulship, had the province of Gaul assigned him; which, with wonderful conduct and bravery, he subdued in 10 years, carrying the terror of his arms also into Germany and Britain, till then unknown to the Romans.

*Q.* What may be observed of his wars?

*A.* Cæsar is said to have taken 800 towns, subdued 300 states, and to have engaged 3,000,000

of men in different battles, of whom 1,000,000 were slain.

*Q.* What wars followed his conquest of Gaul?

*A.* Pompey now became jealous of Cæsar's power, and induced the senate to order him to lay down his command; upon which Cæsar crossed the Rubicon, the boundary of his province, and led his army toward Rome, Pompey and all the friends of liberty fleeing before him.

*Q.* What followed this declaration of civil war?

*A.* Cæsar, having subdued Italy in sixty days, entered Rome, and seized upon the money in the public treasury. He then went to Spain, where he conquered the partizans of Pompey under Petrius, Afranius, and Varro; and, at his return, was created dictator, and soon after consul.

*Q.* Where was the decisive battle fought?

*A.* Cæsar left Rome, and going in search of Pompey, the two hostile generals engaged on the plains of Pharsalia. The army of the former amounted only to 22,000 men, while that of Pompey amounted to 45,000: but the superior generalship of Cæsar prevailed, and he was victorious.

*Q.* Where did Cæsar go after his victory?

*A.* Cæsar, making a generous use of his victory, followed Pompey into Egypt, where he heard of his murder; and making the country tributary to his power, he hastened to suppress the remainder of Pompey's party in Africa and Spain.

*Q.* What was his reception at Rome?

*A.* Triumphant over all his enemies, Cæsar was created perpetual dictator, received the names of

imperator and father of his country, and governed the people with justice.

*Q.* What was the cause of his death ?

*A.* Cæsar's engrossing all the powers of the state, and ruling with absolute authority, created general disgust ; a conspiracy was therefore formed against him by more than 60 senators, the chief of whom were Brutus and Cassius.

*Q.* What was the manner of his death ?

*A.* Cæsar was stabbed in the senate-house, on the 15th of March, 44 years before Christ, in the 56th year of his age. He at first attempted to make some resistance ; but seeing Brutus, his intimate friend, among the conspirators, he submitted to his fate, and, covered with 23 wounds, fell at the foot of Pompey's statue.

*Q.* Was Cæsar remarkable for his learning ?

*A.* The learning of Cæsar deserves commendation as highly as his military character. His memoirs, or commentaries of his wars, are admired for the elegance, as well as correctness of his style. He spoke with the same spirit with which he fought ; and had he devoted himself to the bar, he would have been the only man capable of rivaling Cicero.

*Q.* What character is given of Julius Cæsar ?

*A.* Julius Cæsar is perhaps the most distinguished character in history : he possessed very uncommon abilities, and could employ at the same time his ears to listen, his eyes to read, his hand to write, and his mind to dictate. After his death, he was ranked among the gods.

## CHAPTER XLIV.

*Roscius.*

*Q.* WHO was Roscius?

*A.* Roscius, a native of Lanuvium, was a distinguished Roman actor.

*Q.* Does he with propriety obtain a place in a classical biography?

*A.* The stage is of a lower order than war or government, rhetoric, poetry, or science; but talents of every kind merit respect; and, where they are of the highest degree in their kind, it is at that their possessor should be honorably recorded.

*Q.* Had Roscius all advantages of nature?

*A.* His eyes, on which so much in the histrionic art depends, were distorted; but his voice and his general power were commanding.

*Q.* Was Roscius distinguished by more than his skill on the stage?

*A.* Roscius wrote a treatise, comparing, with much ability, the professions of the orator and comedian.

*Q.* What testimony is still given to the merit of Roscius?

*A.* Celebrated players, in all ages, have been called by his name: thus, Garrack is called the British Roscius.

## CHAPTER XLV.

*Cicero.*

**Q.** WHO was Cicero?

**A.** Marcus Tullius Cicero, the father of Latin eloquence, and the greatest of Roman orators, was the son of a Roman knight; and having displayed promising abilities, his father procured for him the most celebrated masters of his time.

**Q.** What were his first pursuits?

**A.** Cicero served one campaign under Sylla; and, returning to Rome, appeared as a pleader at the bar, where the greatness of his genius and his superior eloquence soon raised him to notice. After he had passed through the lower honors of the state, he was made consul in his 43d year, the age required by law for filling that office.

**Q.** What remarkable occurrence distinguished his consulship?

**A.** Catiline, a profligate noble, with many dissolute and desperate Romans, conspired against their country; but all their projects were baffled by the extreme vigilance of Cicero. Catiline was defeated in battle; and Cicero, at Rome, punished the rest of the conspirators with death.

**Q.** What were the consequences of the services he rendered his country?

**A.** Cicero received the thanks of the people, and was styled *the father of his country*, and *the second founder of Rome*; but his refusal to agree to the

arbitrary measures of Cæsar and Pompey, caused him to be exiled. He did not bear his banishment with fortitude; and was overjoyed when, after 16 months absence, he was restored with honor to his country.

*Q.* What part did Cicero take in the civil wars of Pompey and Cæsar?

*A.* After much hesitation, Cicero espoused the cause of Pompey against Cæsar; and when the latter was victorious at Pharsalia, Cicero was reconciled to him, and treated with great humanity; but as a true republican, he approved of Cæsar's murder, and thus incurred the hatred of Antony, who wished to succeed in power.

*Q.* What was the manner of his death?

*A.* Octavius, Antony, and Lepidus, having formed a third triumvirate, agreed on a proscription of their enemies: for two days Octavius endeavored to preserve Cicero from the vengeance of Antony, but at last gave him up; and Cicero, in his attempt to escape, was overtaken by a party of soldiers, who cut off his head and right hand, and brought them to Antony. This happened in the 64th year of his age, and 43 years before Christ.

*Q.* What observations have you to make on this celebrated man?

*A.* Cicero is admired not only as a great statesman, but as an orator, a man of genius, and a scholar, in which united characters he stands unrivalled.

## CHAPTER XLVI.

*Sallust.*

**Q.** WHO was Sallust ?

**A.** Sallust, a Roman of rank, was born at Aminternum, about 86 years before Christ.

**Q.** What was the character of Sallust ?

**A.** In his private character, Sallust was extravagant and dissipated ; in his public, tyrannical. He was governor of Numidia, which he plundered.

**Q.** What were his writings ?

**A.** Sallust wrote several works, one of them being a history of Rome ; of this only a few fragments have been preserved. His account of the conspiracy of Catiline, and that of the war with Jugurtha, King of Numidia, remain.

**Q.** What is the character of his writings ?

**A.** They are animated and lofty, discovering an acquaintance with human nature, and indignation against vice.

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**CHAPTER XLVII.***Marcus Junius Brutus.*

**Q.** WHO was Marcus Junius Brutus ?

**A.** Marcus Junius Brutus was a lineal descendant of that Brutus who expelled the Tarquins from Rome. He seemed to inherit the republi-

can principles of his great progenitor, which, together with his talents and virtues, procured him universal esteem.

*Q.* What part did he take in the civil wars?

*A.* In the civil war between Cæsar and Pompey, Brutus joined the latter, although his father's murderer, because he thought his views less dangerous to the liberties of his country; but after the battle of Pharsalia, Cæsar not only spared the life of Brutus, but instantly received him into favor.

*Q.* What were his subsequent actions?

*A.* The favors of Cæsar could not gain the friendship of Brutus, who saw the liberties of his country oppressed; he therefore readily entered into a conspiracy to cut off the usurper; and when Cæsar was attacked in the senate-house, on seeing Brutus rushing on him, he covered his face with his robe, and submitted to his fate.

*Q.* What were the consequences of this action?

*A.* Upon the death of Cæsar, the commonwealth might have been restored, but the inactivity of Brutus and his party ruined their cause; by allowing Antony to gain the superiority, they were obliged to leave Rome; and retiring into Greece, they were followed thither by Antony, accompanied by young Octavias, Cæsar's nephew.

*Q.* What was the issue of the war?

*A.* Brutus came to a decisive engagment with Antony and Octavius on the plains of Philippi; where he commanded in person, he bore down every thing before him; but his left wing, com-



manded by Cassius, was defeated ; the next day after an obstinate conflict, the republican army was entirely defeated.

*T.* Relate the manner of his death.

*P.* Brutus being surrounded on all sides, and disdaining to fall into the hands of his despotic enemies, took each of his friends by the hand, and addressed them with a cheerful countenance, exhorted them to provide for their safety ; then withdrawing with two or three of his particular confidants, he fell on his sword, and expired, 43 years before Christ.

*Q.* What character is left us of Marcus Junius Brutus ?

*A.* All writers agree in extolling the virtues of Brutus, and in celebrating his literary talents no less than his valor in the field ; he was fond of imitating the austere virtues of Cato : and in reading the histories of nations, he imbibed those principles of freedom which were so eminently displayed in his political career.

**NOTE.**—Cassius, the colleague of Brutus, ignorant of the success of the right wing, ordered his freedmen to kill him ; Brutus lamenting over the fate of Cassius, called him *the last of the Romans* ; and being left sole commander of the army, renewed the combat as is mentioned in the text.

**NOTE.**—The friends of Cæsar charged Brutus and his associates with base ingratitude, for killing their benefactor ; but Cicero and the republican party applauded them, for having preferred the liberty of their country to the obligations of private friendship.

## CHAPTER XLVIII.

*Antony.*

Q. Who was Antony?

A. Antony was a noble Roman, who made himself conspicuous in the civil wars, which distracted his country; in his youth he was remarkable for his comeliness and strength, which he increased by travel and warlike exercises.

T. Relate the adventures of his early life.

P. Returning from his travels with the acquisition of an uncommon eloquence, he served as Cæsar's lieutenant in Gaul, and in that station gave proofs of extraordinary courage and bravery, he afterwards filled the offices of augur and tribune of the people, and distinguished himself by his ambitious views.

Q. What part did Antony take in the civil wars?

A. When Rome was torn by the factions of Cæsar and Pompey, Antony privately retired from the city to Cæsar's camp, and advised him to march to Rome, took the command of the left wing, at Pharsalia, and according to a premeditated scheme, offered him a diadem in presence of the Roman people.

Q. What were his subsequent actions?

A. When Cæsar was assassinated, Antony pronounced an oration over his body; and, soon after laying aside the mask of moderation, used every

means to increase his own power ; he was declared an enemy to the republic, and was defeated by the consuls Hirtius and Pansa ; but coalescing with Augustus and Lepidus, the triumvirate overcame the republican army, and divided the Roman empire among themselves.

*Q.* Did he long enjoy his power ?

*A.* Antony divorced his wife Octavia, the sister of Augustus, to marry Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt ; this brought on a quarrel between the triumviri, which was decided by a sea-fight at Actium, where Antony was defeated.

*Q.* What was the manner of his death ?

*A.* Antony, finding himself betrayed by Cleopatra, ordered Eros his freedman to slay him ; but Eros, instead of complying, slew himself ; Antony, struck with this proof of attachment, and desiring to imitate the deed, stabbed himself in the breast, and expired in the 56th year of his age, 80 years before Christ.

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## CHAPTER XLIX.

### *Augustus.*

*Q.* WHO was Augustus ?

*A.* Augustus was the son of Octavius, a senator,

NOTE.—His original name was Caius Octavius ; and the honorable appellation of Augustus was given him by the submissive servility of the Roman senate, after he had made himself master of their liberties.

and the nephew of Julius Cæsar, who adopted him, and appointed him his heir.

*Q.* What was his conduct upon Cæsar's death ?

*A.* Augustus, although but 18 years old when his uncle was murdered, hastened to Rome, and by his hypocrisy ingratiated himself with the senate and people; he at first sided with the republicans, but finding himself at the head of a large army, his ambition prompted him to form a triumvirate with Antony and Lepidus.

*Q.* What were his actions in this capacity ?

*A.* Augustus set out with Antony against Brutus and Cassius, and came up with the republican army at Philippi; Augustus being indisposed, the forces of the triumviri were commanded by Antony alone, who gained a complete victory; the conquerors made a cruel use of their victory, putting to death almost every person of rank that fell into their power.

*Q.* Where did Augustus go after the battle ?

*A.* Augustus returned with the troops to Italy, to distribute among the veterans the lands which had been promised them; and in order to do this, he turned out without mercy, multitudes of husbandmen and shepherds, and among others the poet Virgil.

*Q.* What circumstances contributed to make him master of Rome ?

*A.* Augustus having removed all his enemies by his numerous proscriptions, on a slight pretence deprived Lepidus of his command; and quarrel-

ling with Anthony, completely defeated him at Actium, and thus became master of the Roman world.

*Q.* What were the consequences of this victory?

*A.* From the battle of Actium may be computed the imperial reign of Augustus; and, returning to Rome in triumph, he attempted by magnificent shows, to obliterate the impression of his former cruelty, and to reconcile the citizens to his government.

*Q.* What success did he meet with in his endeavors?

*A.* The senate behaved to him with the meanest servility; they called him Father of his country, Emperor, and Augustus; the neighboring nations also made their submission, and courted his alliance.

*T.* Describe the subsequent part of his reign.

*P.* Augustus proved an active emperor; he restored peace and order to the state, and made the best regulations for promoting its prosperity; after visiting the provinces, he twice pretended a strong desire to resign the supreme power, and appeared to yield reluctantly to the senators, who conjured him to retain it.

*Q.* For what is his reign remarkable?

*A.* It is remarkable for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*Q.* When did he die?

*A.* Augustus died in the 76th year of his age, A. D. 14, after he had held the supreme power 44

years ; during which time, he managed affairs with so much address, and established his authority so firmly, that the Romans were never afterward able to recover their liberty.

## CHAPTER I.

### *Virgil.*

*Q.* WHO was Virgil ?

*A.* Virgil was an excellent writer, called the prince of Latin poets ; he was born at Andes, a village near Mantua, about 70 years before Christ.

*Q.* What was the first remarkable circumstance recorded of him ?

*A.* Having lost his farms in the distribution of land to the soldiers of Augustus, after the battle of Philippi, he repaired to Rome, where he obtained his request through the interest of Mæcenas.

*Q.* What was the consequence of this favor ?

*A.* When Virgil showed the order for the restitution of his property, he was nearly killed by the centurion, who was in possession, and escaped only by swimming across a river.

*Q.* What are his works, and what were the causes of their being written ?

*A.* Virgil, in his *Bucolics*, or pastorals, celebrates the praises of his illustrious patrons ; he undertook his *Georgics*, in order to promote the study

of agriculture; and the design of the *Æneid*, is thought to have been to reconcile the Romans to a monarchical government.

Q. What else have you to relate of him?

A. Virgil, by his talents and virtues, acquired the friendship of the emperor Augustus, and of the most celebrated personages of his time. He died at Brundisium, in the 51st year of his age, 19 years before the Christian era, leaving his immense possessions to his friends, and was buried in the neighborhood of Naples, where his tomb is still to be seen.

Q. What character is given of his poems?

A. The works of Virgil were written with graceful simplicity, with elegance, delicacy of sentiment, and purity of language; but their distinguishing characteristic is judgment. His *Æneid* is a work of great merit, and inferior only to the poems of Homer, from which it is chiefly copied.

NOTE.—Virgil employed twelve years in the composition of the *Æneid*, but died before he had revised his immortal work. In his last will he ordered it to be burnt, but this was not permitted; and Augustus ordered two of the poet's friends to revise and expunge whatever they thought improper, but they were strictly forbidden to make any additions.

# CHAPTER LI.

## *Horace.*

*Q.* WHO was Horace ?

*A.* Quintus Horatius Flaccus was a celebrated Latin poet, born at Venusia : his father, although poor, took him to Rome when a boy, and educated him with great care.

*Q.* What were his subsequent actions ?

*A.* At the age of twenty, Horace went to Athens to study philosophy, and then, with the rank of military tribune attended Brutus to the civil wars. In the battle of Philippi he saved himself by flight, and returned to Rome.

*Q.* What is related of Horace after his return ?

*A.* Horace finding his father dead, and his fortune ruined, applied himself to writing verses ; and his talents soon recommended him to the protection of Virgil, Mæcenas, and Augustus, with whom he afterward-lived on terms of the greatest intimacy and friendship.

*T.* Describe his death and character

*P.* Horace died in the 57th year of his age, and 8 years before Christ ; some suppose by his own hand, in order to follow his friend and patron Mæcenas, who died three weeks before. Horace was warm in his friendship, and his gayety was suitable to the liveliness and dissipation of a court.

*Q.* What are his writings ?

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A. Horace has written *Odes*, remarkable for the ease and melody of their expressions, and for the pleasing variety of their numbers. In his *Epistles* and *Satires*, he displays much art and much satirical humor; in his *Art of Poetry*, he has shown great judgment and taste.

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## CHAPTER LII.

### *Livy*

Q. WHO was Livy?

A. Livy was a native of Padua, and was born about 50 years before the birth of our Saviour.

Q. Where did he chiefly live?

A. Livy resided chiefly at Naples and Rome, great part of his life being spent at court, as Augustus was a liberal patron of literature.

Q. By what works is Livy distinguished?

A. He wrote several works; but his fame depends on his History of Rome, extending from the foundation of the city to his own time.

Q. Is the whole of his history extant?

A. The greater part is lost; of what remains, some has been found by the researches of the moderns; and it is not improbable, that among the ruins of subterranean cities, or in other places, more will yet be discovered.

Q. Has the history of Livy great merit?

A. It has: it is a clear and lively narrative of

an interesting series of actions ; it contains some absurd prodigies ; but they are stated as agreeable to the tradition and belief of his countrymen, and they are such as we find in the ancients in general.

*Q.* What opinion should be entertained of the speeches ascribed by Livy and other writers to the leaders of armies and assemblies ?

*A.* Such speeches are to be regarded as ingenious fabrications ; copies were not furnished by reporters to be committed to books as a record of what actually had happened ; and the chief object in composing harangues, was to make them correspond with the character of the speaker.

*Q.* Where and when did Livy die ?

*A.* In his 67th year, Livy died at Padra, the place of his birth.

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## CHAPTER LIII.

### *Ovid.*

*Q.* WHO was Ovid ?

*A.* Ovid was a Roman poet, born 43 years before Christ.

*Q.* For what profession did his father design him ?

*A.* He was designed for the profession of law and oratory.

*Q.* Did Ovid make progress in his study ?

*A.* Ovid made great progress ; but he did not

apply with that exclusive diligence which was necessary to fulfil the expectations of his father. nothing could prevent Ovid from making poetry his chief care.

*Q.* Did he enjoy the favor of the great and learned?

*A.* The most distinguished writers of the age were Ovid's friends; and he was favored by the emperor Augustus.

*Q.* Did the favor of the emperor continue?

*A.* On some disgust, the cause of which is not correctly known, Ovid was banished to the Euxine Sea; where, after seven or eight years, he died in his 59th year.

*Q.* Did he compose many poems?

*A.* Ovid composed a variety of poems; but the most celebrated are the 15 books of *Metamorphoses*;—those changes which according to the ancient Mythology, beings have undergone; among the most affecting passages, is that of *Pyramus and Thisbe*, more tender than prosperous in their lives

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## CHAPTER LIV.

### *Cornelius Nepos.*

*Q.* WHO was Cornelius Nepos?

*A.* Cornelius Nepos was a Latin author of the Augustan age.

**Q.** Whose favor and intimacy did he enjoy?

**A.** Besides the notice of the great, and the intimacy of Cicero and Atticus, Nepos obtained the patronage of the emperor Augustus.

**Q.** What did Nepos write?

**A.** Nepos is said to have written three books of Chronicles, and a biography of all the most celebrated characters that had lived before his time; but these works are lost; what remains is an account of a few illustrious Greeks and Romans.

**Q.** What is the plan of this work?

**A.** The lives of Nepos do not give a full detail; their object is rather by a few striking events, to illustrate the character.

**Q.** In what style are the lives written?

**A.** The style is clear and delicately correct.

## CHAPTER LV.

### *Phædrus.*

**Q.** WHO was Phædrus?

**A.** Phædrus was a Greek by birth, but a Latin author.

**Q.** What condition did he hold at Rome?

**A.** Phædrus was a slave to Augustus, who granted him liberty.

**Q.** What work did Phædrus produce?

**A.** In the reign of Augustus, Phædrus produced five books of fables in pure and elegant verse.

**Q.** Are these fables original?

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A. The fables of Phædrus are taken from those of Æsop, which, indeed, have served as the groundwork to fabulists in all ages.

Q. What circumstance produced for Phædrus the dislike of the minister Sejanus?

A. Sejanus, conscious of guilt, supposed that the enconiums paid to virtue, in the fables, were satires on himself.

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## CHAPTER LVI.

### *Germanicus.*

Q. WHO was Germanicus?

A. Germanicus was the son of Drusus, and the nephew of the emperor Tiberius; when very young, he was entrusted with the command of the army on the Rhine, consisting of eight legions, among whom his uncommon merit made him almost idolized.

T. Relate the principal actions of his life.

P. When, upon the death of Augustus, the soldiers of Germanicus wished to make him emperor, he refused; and having quelled the sedition, he led his army against the Germans, whom he overthrew in several battles, subduing many wild and extensive countries.

Q. What were the consequences of this noble conduct?

A. Tiberius distressed at his superior popularity

recalled him to enjoy a triumph ; but he was soon after sent into the East, his virtue having rendered him odious to the emperor.

*Q.* How did he die ?

*A.* Germanicus, in his 34th year, died by poison.

## CHAPTER LVII.

### *Lucan.*

*Q.* WHO was Lucan ?

*A.* Lucan was a native of Corduba, in Spain, who lived between the 39th and 65th years after Christ.

*Q.* Did he reside a considerable time in Rome ?

*A.* He removed early to Rome, and continued there under the patronage of Nero, to whom his talents, and perhaps still more, his flattery recommended him.

*Q.* What marks did Lucan receive of the emperor's regard.

*A.* In addition to the intimacy of Nero, Lucan obtained though under the legal age, the offices of augur and quæstor.

**NOTE.**—Germanicus was met many miles from the city, by vast multitudes, who received him with marks of adoration rather than respect. The gracefulness of his person, his triumphal chariot, in which were carried his five children, and the recaptured standards of the former armies, throw the people into a phrenzy of joy and admiration.

**Q.** What circumstance make him lose the emperor's favor?

**A.** Lucan engaging in a political contest with Nero, obtained the victory; the mortification of defeat Nero did not forgive; and a series of indignities succeeding to marks of honor, Lucan engaged in a conspiracy against the emperor which was detected.

**Q.** What followed the discovery?

**A.** Lucan was condemned, being allowed only the choice of the manner of death; his veins were opened in a warm bath, and he expired.

**Q.** What did he write?

**A.** Lucan composed several books; but only the poem of *Pharsalia* is extant.

**Q.** What is the subject of this poem, and what is its merits?

**A.** *Pharsalia* is an account of the contest between Cæsar and Pompey; it is an animated though irregular composition.

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## CHAPTER LVIII.

### *Tacitus.*

**Q.** Who was Tacitus?

**A.** Tacitus was a Roman of rank and learning

**Q.** What dignity did he attain?

**A.** Tacitus held the office of consul.

**Q.** By what attainments was he distinguished?

A. Tacitus was distinguished as an orator and historian.

Q. What historical pieces did he compose?

A. Tacitus composed a treatise on the manners of the Germans, the life of Agricola, the history of the Romish emperors and annals. Part of his writings is lost.

Q. What is the character of the works of Tacitus?

A. The style of Tacitus is vivid, and the substance profound; he excels in delineating events and characters, by a few striking touches.

Q. Are his writings favorable to virtue?

A. Though living under a despotic government, Tacitus shows himself a friend to liberty, to truth, and to man.

Q. What was his private character?

A. The private character of Tacitus corresponded to the spirit of his writings; he conciliated general esteem by upright, prudent, and honorable conduct.

## CHAPTER LIX.

### *Juvenal.*

Q. WHO was Juvenal?

A. Juvenal, a native of Aquinum, in Italy, was a poet who flourished about 100 years after Christ.

Q. What species of poetry did Juvenal cultivate?



A. The poetry which Juvenal cultivated, was satire, directed against the follies and vices of the age.

Q. To what did this manner of writing expose him?

A. When in his 80th year, Juvenal was, on pretence of doing him honor, sent to the borders of Egypt as governor, and suffered considerably from the labor attached to this office.

Q. What is the character of Juvenal's satires?

A. Juvenal's manner is bold and animated; he does not spare vice: but instead of the gentle earnestness that wins, there is much of that acrimony, which is calculated to irritate.

Q. What is the best of the satires?

A. The 10th is, perhaps considerably superior to any other of Juvenal's satires; not confined to his own time, he produces in it a wide range of examples, to show that the advantages of nature and fortune afford no security against the direst calamities. This poem has, in vivid coloring, been imitated by Johnson, in his *Vanity of Human Wishes*, and adapted to modern society.

## CHAPTER LX.

### *Plutarch.*

Q. WHO was Plutarch?

A. Plutarch, a learned Greek, was a native of

Chæronca, who flourished upwards of 100 years after Christ.

*Q.* What advantages for the cultivation of his powers did he enjoy in his youth?

*A.* Descended of intelligent ancestors, he was sent, while young, to Delphi, and instructed by Ammonius in philosophy and mathematics.

*Q.* How did Plutarch afterward promote his improvement?

*A.* To enlarge his acquaintance with human nature, and to learn more accurately than by description, the institutions and attainments of different nations, Plutarch travelled, and then returning to Rome, opened a school to communicate the information he had acquired.

*Q.* What other means of cultivation did Plutarch use?

*A.* Plutarch carried a common-place book, in which he noted such remarks of importance as occurred in the course of conversation.

*Q.* What testimony was given of his talents?

*A.* So honorable was the opinion entertained of Plutarch, that he was appointed, by the emperor Trajan, consul and governor of Illyricum.

*Q.* After the death of Trajan, what became of Plutarch?

*A.* Plutarch returned to his native town, where he lived happy, studious, and respected.

*Q.* What is his principal work?

*A.* Plutarch's principal work is the lives of illustrious men, who figured as warriors, statesmen, or scholars—an instructive and animated composition

**Q.** Did Plutarch write any other works?

**A.** Plutarch wrote moral treatises; not, however, equal to the lives, but containing many sound and useful counsels.

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## CHAPTER LXI.

### *Seneca.*

**Q.** Who was Seneca?

**A.** Seneca, the son of L. Anneus Seneca, a native of Corduba in Spain, was a celebrated writer and moralist, who lived between the 12th and 65th years of the Christian era.

**Q.** What was the employment of Seneca?

**A.** Seneca was a pleader until the fear of Caligula deterred him from his study. He was afterward made quæstor, but the aspersions thrown upon him induced him to leave Rome, and the emperor banished him for some time into Corsica.

**Q.** Who recalled him from Corsica, and what was his next employment?

**A.** Seneca was recalled from Corsica by Agrippina, to conduct the education of her son Nero, who was destined to succeed to the empire.

**Q.** How did he succeed in this employment?

**A.** In the honorable duty of preceptor to Nero, Seneca gained applause, and so long as Nero followed his advice Rome enjoyed tranquility.

**Q.** What was Nero's treatment afterward of Seneca?

**A.** From a suspicion that Seneca was concerned in the conspiracy of Piso, Nero ordered him to destroy himself. Seneca received the message with philosophic firmness, while at table with his wife and friends.

**Q.** In what mode did Seneca submit to the order of Nero?

**A.** Seneca suffered his veins to be opened that he might bleed to death, but bleeding slowly, to accelerate his death, drank a dose of poison, but without effect; he was then carried into a hot bath, but this still being ineffectual, he was finally suffocated by the steam.

**Q.** What can be said of the writings of Seneca?

**A.** His writings are numerous, and principally on moral subjects. He is admired for the refinement of his sentiments and the virtue of his precepts. His style is nervous, and seems well suited to the age in which he lived.

## CHAPTER LXII.

### *Josephus*

**Q.** WHO was Josephus?

**A.** Josephus, the celebrated Jewish historian, supported a vigorous siege for a considerable time against Vespasian and Titus, in a town of Judea, where 40,000 Jews were slain.

**Q.** How was Josephus saved ?

**A.** He fled into a cave with forty of his countrymen, and having all drawn lots to kill one another, Josephus remained the last, and surrendered himself to Vespasian.

**Q.** What was Vespasian's estimation of Josephus ?

**A.** Josephus gained the emperor's esteem. He was present at the siege of Jerusalem, by Titus, with whom he came to Rome, and was honored with the privilege of a Roman citizen.

**Q.** What were his principal writings ?

**A.** He wrote the history of the wars of the Jews, both in Syriac and Greek. He also wrote two books to defend the Jews against Apion, besides an account of his own life.

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## CHAPTER LXIII.

### *Pyrrhus.*

**Q.** WHO was Pyrrhus ?

**A.** Pyrrhus was the son of Adcides, and was placed on the throne of Epiris, when only 12 years of age, by Elautias, King of Illyricum.

**Q.** What have you to record of Pyrrhus ?

**A.** Pyrrhus was invited by the Tarentines to assist them against the Romans. On his passage across the Adriatic, he lost the greater part of his troops in a storm.

**Q.** What success attended Pyrrhus in his war against the Romans?

**A.** In his first battle with the Romans, he was victorious; but the loss he experienced was so great that he sued for peace; but his offers were refused. Another battle was soon after fought near Asculum, where both Pyrrhus and his enemies claimed the victory.

**Q.** Did Pyrrhus continue in Italy after his second battle with the Romans?

**A.** No: his love of novelty induced him to pass over into Sicily, where he obtained two decisive victories over the Carthagenians, and took many of their towns.

**Q.** Where did Pyrrhus next engage?

**A.** He then returned to Italy, where he renewed hostilities with the Romans, but his army of 80,000 men was defeated by Carius with an army of 20,000 men. He left Italy, about 274 before Christ.

**T.** Relate briefly the manner of the death of Pyrrhus?

**P.** He marched against Sparta, but was obliged to retire to Argos, where a bloody conflict ensued, during which a Roman threw from the top of a house a tile which caused his death, 272 years before the Christian era.

**Q.** What character is given of Pyrrhus?

**A.** Pyrrhus has been deservedly commended for his talents as a general; and even the Romans passed great encomiums upon him.

## CHAPTER LXIV.

*Pisistratus.*

**Q.** Who was Pisistratus?

**A.** Pisistratus was an Athenian, who, after making himself popular by his liberality and his bravery, determined to secure to himself the government of the country; but was opposed by Solon, who exposed his duplicity before the people.

**Q.** What course did Pisistratus then pursue to attain his ambitious views?

**A.** He next had recourse to artifice. Having artfully obtained a body of chosen men protect him from his enemies, he forcibly took possession of the citadel of Athens, and made himself absolute?

**Q.** What more have you to relate of Pisistratus?

**A.** He was three times ejected from Athens and was as often recalled to sovereign power. He died about 257 years before the Christian era

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